

Exhibit 12

MINUTES OF
ARKANSAS STATE PLANT BOARD
PESTICIDE COMMITTEE MEETING

October 18, 2011

Members Present: Chairman George E. Tidwell, Russell Black, Rick Bransford, Otis Howe, and Lester McKinley

Present Via Conference Call: Dr. Rick Bennett

Members Absent: Larry Jayroe and Dr. Robert Wiedenmann

Staff Present: Director Darryl Little, Mike Thompson, Susie Nichols, and Brandi Reynolds

Others Present: Grace Ellen Rice, Ron Harrod, Claude Bonner, Andrew Grobmyer

Chairman George E. Tidwell called the meeting to order at 1:33 P.M. and asked the Pesticide Committee members present and all others present to introduce themselves.

Chairman Tidwell started the meeting by announcing that the first agenda item required no action by the committee. Mr. Tidwell continued by announcing the second item on the agenda, a formal hearing, had been cancelled, since the agenda was set, because the Arkansas State Plant Board (ASPB) had withdrawn its allegation in light of available evidence. Mr. Tidwell then continued by stating the third and fourth item on the agenda to be presented to the Pesticide Committee were in regard to a farmer's request for relief from certain ASPB regulations regarding glyphosate use and stated that the farmer has since withdrawn his request. Mr. Tidwell then introduced the fifth item on the agenda to be presented to the Pesticide Committee which was a report on a new 2,4-D product for use on a 2,4-D tolerant crop. At this point in time Chairman Tidwell turned the floor over to Pesticide Division Director, Mr. Mike Thompson.

Mr. Thompson stated that on February 2, 2011 the ASPB staff met with Dow Agro Sciences at their request so Dow could make the ASPB aware of Dow's development of their "Enlist Weed Control System". At this point in time Mr. Thompson pointed out that each committee member should have a copy of Dow's brochure (Attachment 1) for their review. Mr. Thompson explained Dow's new system introduces a new gene to corn, soybean, and cotton that allows "Enlist", a proprietary 2,4-D product, to be sprayed over the top without injuring the crop. Mr. Thompson then said Dow also stated that Enlist would drift significantly less than other 2,4-D

products on the market and that Dow was hoping to have their seed and herbicide ready for use in the 2013 season, with corn being the first seed to come to the market, followed later by soybeans and then cotton. Mr. Thompson added Dow's particular concern in Arkansas was the 2,4-D restrictions in Northeast Arkansas. Mr. Thompson then stated Dow was asked to provide the ASPB with copies of the data and the study protocol that shows the low drift potential which the ASPB had not received as of yet. Mr. Thompson added the ASPB knew Dow was conducting drift studies in Arkansas this year, because staff went out and observed it, but the ASPB had not seen any of that data as of yet. Mr. Thompson also stated that Dow was asked if they had any idea on how the product would react if applied into an inversion, but Dow didn't know, not at this time. Mr. Thompson then stated the ASPB staff will be asking Dow to speak to the Pesticide Committee about their product, before the ASPB is going to register this product for use in Arkansas. Mr. Thompson added, for the Pesticide Committee to be prepared that Dow will be lobbying the committee to allow their product to be used in the same area of Arkansas where the ASPB agonized over what steps to take to allow cotton producers to be able to produce a crop without interference from 2,4-D.

Chairman Tidwell stated he wanted to make the Pesticide Committee aware that the committee probably will be meeting again for the request to modify the regulations up in the area where the restrictions are now. Mr. Tidwell also stated he thinks Dr. Bob Scott's appearance before the Pesticide Committee earlier this year or last year was a prelude to that and that Farm Bureau maybe getting on board with that too.

At this point in time some of the Pesticide Committee members needed some clarifications regarding the 2,4-D restrictions.

Mr. Thompson explained there are 10 counties in northeast Arkansas where no 2,4-D applications are permitted during the time frame of April 15th through September 15th, unless the farmer had a 2,4-D Hardship Permit. Mr. Thompson then stated he advised Dow that the ASPB was not going to register their product until they visited with the Pesticide Committee to provide their information regarding the new product.

Mr. Darryl Little stated the weed resistant problem in northeast Arkansas was justification for a Hardship Permit and the fee for the Hardship Permit was currently \$100. Mr. Little also stated he didn't hear a lot of complaints regarding the fee, that the primary issue was the farmers not wanting anyone to know about their applications.

Mr. Otis Howe stated he didn't think the farmers would be complaining about a \$100 fee for a permit if they had a pigweed problem and he was wondering if the Pesticide Division was prepared to handle a lot of permit requests.

Mr. Thompson replied it would depend on how many permit requests would be made, if it turned out to be 10s of thousands, the Pesticide Division may not be prepared for that.

At this point in time the question was raised if a Hardship Permit was needed per field or per farmer and if it was possible to apply for the permit online.

Ms. Susie Nichols explained that the farmers have to submit an application along with a description of each field they were going to spray, identifying the exact location of the field including latitude and longitude, if the field would be sprayed by ground or air, and after the field had been sprayed the farmer had 10 days to submit a reporting form where they monitored the wind speed, etc. Ms. Nichols mentioned the main problem with the Hardship Permit was that very few people were sending in the paperwork correctly. Ms. Nichols then explained the ASPB was not set up to take fees over the internet or phone and since the \$100 fee had to come in with the application it was not possible to apply for the permit online.

Chairman Tidwell then asked if there were any further questions for Mr. Thompson. There were none.

Chairman Tidwell then introduced the next item on the agenda to be presented to the Pesticide Committee which was a report on a new dicamba product for use on a dicamba tolerant crop. At this point in time Chairman Tidwell turned the floor over to Pesticide Division Director, Mr. Thompson.

Mr. Thompson stated that on May 25, 2011 the ASPB staff met with Monsanto at their request so Monsanto could make the ASPB aware of a new dicamba product they intended to submit for registration in 2014. Mr. Thompson then stated there was not a lot of information available on this product, but that he provided each committee member with a copy of an article that appeared in the Delta Press (Attachment 2) for a little background information, since Dow did not have a brochure on this product available yet. Mr. Thompson explained the new dicamba product was intended for use over the top of a new dicamba tolerant soybean and that dicamba had the same effect on cotton as 2,4-D and was as drift prone as 2,4-D esters. Mr. Thompson then pointed out the soybean growing area of the state included the cotton growing area and that he provided each committee member with maps (Attachment 3) for their review. Mr. Thompson also stated the manufacturer claimed that the new dicamba product was 60% less volatile than the other dicamba products on the market. Mr. Thompson then pointed out that Monsanto would want to speak to the Pesticide Committee as well once they got closer to registering the product and he also pointed out that the ASPB currently did not have any restrictions on the use of dicamba.

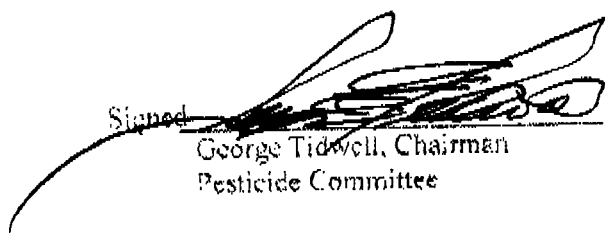
Chairman Tidwell stated the Pesticide Committee should consider developing restrictions for dicamba, because, dicamba on non-dicamba soybeans, this would become a problem, as well as for cotton.

At this point in time a short discussion took place on how the chemical companies had all the money, technology, and staff expertise to develop a chemical that would control the resistant weeds without having to go back to 30 – 40 year old products that always had been a major problem and that those chemical companies only keep going back to those old products because they were cheap and it would take too long to get a new product thru EPA. It was also stated 2,4-D and dicamba were good products, but that the use of those products was not a practical solution if it was at someone else's expense.

Chairman Tidwell then asked if there were any further questions for Mr. Thompson. There were none.

Chairman George E. Tidwell asked if there was any further business to come before the Committee. There was none and the meeting was adjourned at 1:55 P.M.

Signed



George Tidwell, Chairman
Pesticide Committee